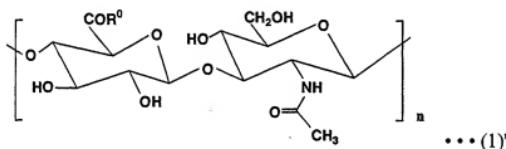


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

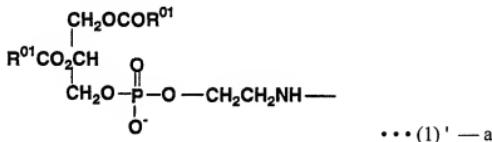
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A hyaluronic acid compound represented by the following formula (1)':



wherein R⁰ is a group represented by the following formula (1)'-a, -OH or -ONa,



wherein R⁰¹ is an alkenyl group having 10 to 28 carbon atoms, and n is an integer of 50 to 50,000, with the proviso that 1 to 100 % 1 to 50% of R⁰ is the group represented by the above formula (1)'-a, said hyaluronic acid compound showing a complex elastic modulus of more than 200 Pa with its hydrogel having a concentration of 3 wt%.

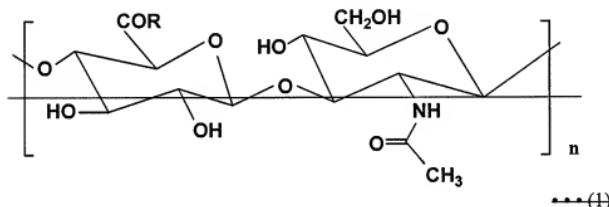
2. (original): The hyaluronic acid compound according to claim 1, wherein n is 300 to 30,000.

3. (previously presented): The hyaluronic acid compound according to claim 1,
wherein two R⁰¹CO-'s in the formula (1)'-a are both oleoyl groups.

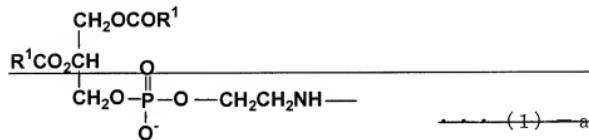
4. (original): A hydrogel of the hyaluronic acid compound of any one of claims 1 to
3.

5. (original): A molded form of the hyaluronic acid compound of any one of claims
1 to 3.

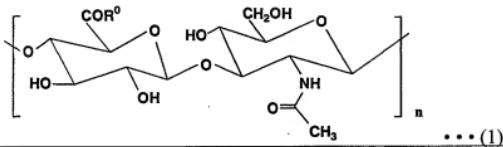
6. (currently amended): A joint treating material comprising a hyaluronic acid
compound represented by the following formula-(1):(1)':



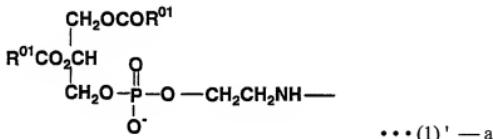
wherein R is a group represented by the following formula (1) a, -OH or -ONa;



wherein R⁺ is an alkyl group or alkenyl group having 10 to 28 carbon atoms,
and n is an integer of 50 to 50,000, with the proviso that 1 to 100 % of R is the group
represented by the above formula (1)-a



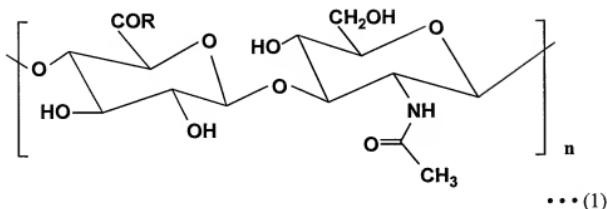
wherein R^0 is a group represented by the following formula (1)'-a, -OH or -ONa,



wherein R^{01} is an alkenyl group having 10 to 28 carbon atoms, and n is an integer of 50 to 50,000, with the proviso that 1 to 50% of R^0 is the group represented by the above formula (1)'-a, said hyaluronic acid compound showing a complex elastic modulus of more than 200 Pa with its hydrogel having a concentration of 3 wt%.

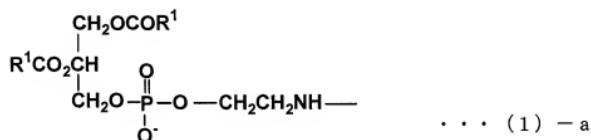
7. (previously presented): The joint treating material according to claim 6, wherein R^1 is an alkyl group or alkenyl group having 14 to 20 carbon atoms and n is an integer of 1,000 to 10,000.

8. (previously presented): A method of using a hyaluronic acid compound comprising inserting a joint treating material prepared from a hyaluronic acid compound represented by the following formula (1):



• • • (1)

wherein R is a group represented by the following formula (1)-a, -OH or -ONa,



wherein R¹ is an alkyl group or alkenyl group having 10 to 28 carbon atoms,

and n is an integer of 50 to 50,000, with the proviso that 1 to 100 % of R is the group represented by the above formula (1)-a,

into the joint of a patient.

9. (previously presented): The molded form of claim 5, wherein the molded form is a sponge, nonwoven cloth or film.